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# Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders Justice for All in a Global Emergency

*20th October 2020*



## Chair's Statement

**Today, the world's justice leaders came together virtually to launch the Global Week for Justice.**

**We met during a deepening emergency.** The COVID-19 pandemic, its economic impacts, and the damage it is causing to individuals, communities and societies are the biggest global challenges that the world's justice systems have ever faced.

The pandemic has exposed the fault lines in our societies, increasing inequalities and disparities rooted in historic patterns of discrimination, and damaging trust within and between societies. Too often, these inequalities are reflected in our justice systems and fail to meet the needs of those they are meant to serve.

**We have come together because we believe that an alternative vision of justice, where no one is left behind, is possible.**

In our discussions today, justice leaders shared experiences of how people-centered justice can protect public health, strengthen economies, and rebuild trust in societies.

We committed to intensifying efforts to understand, solve, and prevent people's justice problems. We also committed to using justice to help people participate fully in their societies and economies. We emphasized the importance of having strong justice systems that leave no one behind and support those who face systemic barriers. The strong hand of justice must be used where it is needed to keep people safe, but not where it would be discriminatory or counterproductive.

We also shared examples of how **innovation has accelerated in the face of this pandemic**. This crisis has provided an opportunity to design and adapt effective justice services that meet the needs of more people. It has spurred collaboration between all those who can play a role in delivering people-centered justice. We collectively committed to investing in justice and increasing evidence-based solutions that improve justice outcomes for everyone. We will continue to work towards open, transparent, and accountable justice systems that protect people, including those facing systemic barriers, inspire trust and are tailored to the 21st century.

Finally, we have recognized **the importance of justice leaders working together globally and regionally** to advance [Sustainable Development Goal 16](#) and provide equitable access to justice for all. Our discussions revealed that countries from different regions and income groups face many common challenges. Sharing best practices with each other will allow us to advance more innovative solutions.

We heed the call for a renewed society that supports more inclusivity and sustainability. Justice is the key to building this new society and to re-establishing trust in communities, and between people and their governments.

As such, we are committed to intensifying our cooperation and to reaching out to justice leaders from countries that were not able to join us in this Global Week for Justice. We will continue to support one another in the coming months and beyond.

As Canada's Prime Minister has said, "As we focus on recovery in our own countries, we must remain committed to the goals and principles that were laid out at the founding of the UN 75 years ago. In fact, we have to double down on our efforts. We must work together to ensure that our institutions go further and do more. That they are equipped to respond to today's challenges – and ensure that no one is left behind."

**Nathalie G. Drouin, Ad. E.**

Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada  
Chair of the Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders, 2020 Global Week for Justice



*The Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders was hosted by the Government of Canada, alongside partners OECD, the Open Government Partnership and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.*



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FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES





*The Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders was an opportunity for leaders to come together to discuss the vital role of justice and justice systems in the response to and recovery from COVID-19, the unfolding economic crisis, and global calls for justice for all. Leaders from all regions and incomes exchanged on common challenges and presented innovative and practical responses, while inspiring hope and ambition for the way forward.*

This Statement was shared at the Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders, chaired by Justice Canada on October 20th, 2020. Participants in the Global Dialogue were Ministers of Justice or their deputies or the Attorney Generals of the following countries:



Albania



Argentina



Armenia



Belgium



Canada



Chile



Costa Rica



Czech Republic



Ireland



Italy



Kazakhstan



Latvia



Lebanon



Morocco



Niger



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Paraguay



Peru



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Sierra Leone



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